

HONORING CHELSEA BROWN

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today I thank Chelsea Brown for her years of service to me, my constituents, the House Republican Conference, the House Committee on Financial Services, and the United States Congress.

Chelsea is one of the most dedicated and loyal people I've had the honor of having on my staff since I was elected to Congress. Few, if any, individuals devoted more hours of their life to my legislative career and to the service of my constituents.

Chelsea joined my staff as a scheduler and office manager in January of 2007. As my colleagues appreciate, the job of a congressional scheduler is one of the most challenging assignments on the Hill. Throughout the years, Chelsea's proactive nature and attention to detail allowed me to maximize both my effectiveness as a legislator and my ability to spend more time with my family.

My children, Claire and Travis, can attest to the asset that Chelsea was to my team. She went out of her way to make my family feel welcome when they visited my office in Washington each summer, and I have no doubt that Claire and Travis will fondly remember how "Miss Chelsea" made visiting their dad's office such an enjoyable experience.

Because of her excellent work in my personal office, I asked Chelsea to join my staff at the House Republican Conference when I served as Chairman, and asked her to come along again when I became Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee. Regardless of the task at hand, Chelsea could always be trusted to get the job done, no matter what. Her strong character, discretion, and work ethic have made her an asset to me over the last six years. I can assure you that she will be sorely missed.

Chelsea, thank you for your service and dedication to the cause of individual liberty, and thank you for being such an invaluable member of my team. I wish you the best of luck in your future personal and professional endeavors.

A TRIBUTE TO EAGLE SCOUTS
ALEXANDER AND ANDREW HAHN**HON. TOM LATHAM**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Alexander and Andrew Hahn of Troop 729 in Treynor, Iowa for each achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance-based achievement with high standards that have been well-maintained for more than a century.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Alex and Andrew completed

their projects for the betterment of a local preschool in Treynor. Alex built a planter and walking path at the preschool, while Andy constructed kneeling pads and two covers and poured concrete around two sandpits in the play area. Together they also added mulch near the walking path, playground, and additional seating area. The work ethic Alex and Andrew have shown in their Eagle Projects, and every other project leading up to their Eagle Scout ranks, speaks volumes of their commitment to serving a cause greater than themselves and assisting their community.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by these young men and their supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I invite my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating the Hahn brothers on obtaining their Eagle Scout ranking, and I wish them continued success in their future education and career.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM HUELSKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained by weather related flight delays on Monday, May 20, 2013 and missed rollcall votes 161, 162 and 163.

Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: "yea" on rollcall No. 161; "yea" on rollcall No. 162; "yea" on rollcall No. 163.

CHRISTOPHER SABBAGH

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share these with my House colleagues.

Christopher Sabbagh is a senior at Kempner High School in Fort Bend County, Texas. His essay topic is: In your opinion, why is it important to be involved in the political process?

THE POWER OF ONE

This country was founded as a beacon of hope, a land of opportunity and freedom. Our nation is prosperous because of the unique form of government that attracts so many individuals from across the world. Every resident of the United States enters into a social contract between the people and the government. According to John Locke, the government's power derives from the, "consent of the governed." As citizens of America, it is important to be involved in the political process because we are all responsible for the actions of our government, just as

our government is responsible for the protection of its citizens.

My parents emigrated from Lebanon to America believing opportunities for their children in a progressive nation would outweigh the sacrifice of leaving behind family, friends, and social stability. They were able to escape restrictive conditions in pursuit of better prospects and became actively involved in different aspects of their new community. Sadly, my parents' participation stopped at an integral duty in American democracy—voting.

As the 2012 Presidential Election neared, the importance of democratic participating became evident to me. Citizens across the nation would decide on a president to lead the nation for the next four years. This one person's decisions would affect the world's future, and we, the citizens of the United States, were entrusted with the final decision. Despite the enormity of this responsibility, many citizens, including my parents, would refrain from participating.

My teacher, Mrs. Naomi Brown, and I decided to confront this community issue and organized a voter registration festival in Sugar Land, Texas, titled "The Power of ONE: Because ONE Vote Matters." With the support of the Bezos Scholars Program and many other organizations, we registered a total of 618 citizens, including my mom and dad. My parents realized that they had escaped a place where credible elections were nonexistent, but here, they had the power to make a difference.

Ultimately, it is important to participate in the political process because it is our duty as American citizens to do so. A democracy is not effective unless there is a direct contribution from the populace. From presidential elections to state, local, and school board elections, we have the responsibility and duty to place in power whoever we feel most competent. When we abstain from participating, we are essentially noncitizens. We have no voice in the government. We have no influence in decisions made for us. But through participating in the political process, all of these are made available to us. We become the gears that keep our country progressing.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, my flight yesterday to Washington, DC was unexpectedly diverted to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I unexpectedly missed rollcall votes 161, 162, and 163.

On rollcall vote 161, passage of H.R. 258, Stolen Valor Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 162, passage of H.R. 1073, Nuclear Terrorism Conventions Implementation and Safety of Maritime Navigation Act, I would have voted "yes."

On rollcall vote 163, approving the journal, I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 21, 2013

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I missed a vote on H.R. 258, "To amend title